

Definitions and List of Acronyms

Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Timber Harvest and Vegetation Management Activities

100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN	<p>areas determined based on delineations completed or approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or an individual qualified to make floodplain delineations. If these agencies have not completed formal delineations the Water Board staff may agree to the use of best professional judgment; field verification by staff may be needed. These areas include land adjacent to waterbodies that extend to the outer perimeter of lands which experience flooding or are inundated with water during 100-year flood events. At a minimum, dischargers shall designate the 100-year floodplain area to encompass the bed and bank of any ephemeral drainage course. If other indicators are present such as wet vegetation on terraces, or other high water indicators, such as stranded debris, these should also be taken into consideration. For cases of unconfined channels, other indicators may need to be considered.</p> <p>Within the Lake Tahoe Hydrologic Unit 100-year floodplains are sometimes, but not always, included within Stream Environment Zones (SEZs), as defined below. A floodplain only qualifies as SEZ if other secondary indicators of a SEZ are present. If a 100-year floodplain is considered a SEZ, the SEZ prohibitions and exemption criteria apply. (Basin Plan Section 5.7).</p>
BROADCAST BURNING	<p>means the use of fire to achieve ecological or fuel reduction benefits. It does not include burning of organic matter which is piled during mechanical site preparation or the ignition of 'burn piles' as defined below.</p>
BURN PILE	<p>means hand and machine constructed piles of organic materials (e.g., slash, branches, limbs, stumps, biomass) intended for burning.</p>
CRITICAL DIP	<p>means a low point, or overflow structure, in the road near or at a watercourse crossing designed to prevent the diversion of high flows in the event that the crossing or culvert becomes plugged or flow capacity is exceeded. To be properly installed, critical dips should be on the downhill side of a crossing.</p>

DISCHARGER(S)	means the landowner(s), duly authorized representative of the landowner, and anyone working on behalf of the landowner in the conduct of timber harvest and vegetation management; includes any city, county, district, the state, and the United States, to the extent authorized by federal law (Water Code section 13050, subdivision c).
DRY SOILS	means soils are dry, loose, and will not form a ball with pressure (i.e., squeezed into a ball by hand).
EFFECTIVENESS MONITORING	means visual evaluation of management measures (e.g., erosion control, water body buffer zones, waterbreaks, critical dips) following the winter period (between March 15 and June 15) to determine the effectiveness of the measures in preventing sediment discharge to waterbodies.
FEDERAL FORESTRY PROFESSIONAL	means a person employed by the federal government meeting the requirements of the Federal Forestry Series (GS-460) of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management.
FORENSIC MONITORING	means visual monitoring of surface waters (e.g., lakes and streams) and Waterbody Buffer Zones to identify evidence of sediment delivery and/or locate sources of sediment delivery (or potential delivery) to a waterbody so that corrective actions may be taken to prevent or reduce sediment discharges to waterbodies.
FUEL BREAK	A strip of hand or machine modified land surface designed to stop the progress of a prescribed fire or wildfire.
GROUND-BASED EQUIPMENT OPERATIONS	includes tractor, vehicle, equipment, and heavy equipment operations. Does not include work conducted by hand crews, helicopter, or cable yarding.
HAND CREW OPERATIONS	means cutting vegetation with a chainsaw or hand saw and manually piling material onsite or removing material with the use of motorized equipment limited to existing roads (except chippers and/or brush mowers). Includes prescribed burning and the construction of fuel breaks.
HARD-FROZEN SOIL CONDITIONS	means frozen soil conditions where operated vehicles, tractors, and equipment can travel without sinking into soil, road, or landing surfaces to a depth of more than two inches for a distance of more than 25 feet. Temperatures must also remain low enough to preclude thawing of the soil surface.

PESTICIDES	means, for the purposes of this Timber Waiver, to include herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, and all other economic poisons. An economic poison is any substance intended to prevent, repel, destroy, or mitigate the damage from insects, rodents, predatory animals, bacteria, fungi, or weeds capable of infesting or harming vegetation, humans, or animals (CA Agriculture Code section 12753, and Basin Plan Chapter 3).
IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING	means visual monitoring of project areas (including roads, stream crossings, landings) to ensure all management practices designed to prevent sediment delivery and protect water quality (e.g., erosion control measures, riparian buffers, waterbreaks, critical dips) are in place and secure prior to the winter period, and at the conclusion of winter operations if winter operations occur.
LANDING	means that area where forest products are concentrated prior to additional processing or removal from site.
PRESCRIBED FIRE	means the implementation of a written prescription to burn a designated area under specified environmental conditions. May include broadcast burning or pile burning.
PROJECT	means any “timber harvest and/or vegetation management activity” (as defined below).
NATURAL RESOURCE PROFESSIONAL	means a person with a bachelor’s degree or higher in a biological, ecological, or other relevant science (e.g., soils, hydrology, botany, fisheries) and at least six months of relevant experience. This person is not a substitute for a Registered Professional Forester when one is required by state or federal code or regulation.
SATURATED SOIL CONDITIONS	<p>means that site conditions are sufficiently wet that timber operations displace soils in yarding or mechanical site preparation areas or displace road and landing surface materials in amounts sufficient to cause a turbidity increase in drainage facilities that discharge into Class I, II, III, or IV waters (as defined in the Forest Practice Rules), or in downstream Class I, II, III, or IV waters that is visible or would violate applicable water quality requirements.</p> <p>In yarding and site preparation areas, this condition may be evidenced by: (a) reduced traction by equipment as indicated by spinning or churning of wheels or tracks in excess of normal performance, (b) inadequate traction without blading wet soil, (c) soil displacement in amounts that cause visible increase in</p>

	<p>turbidity of the downstream waters in a receiving Class I, II, III, or IV waters, or in amounts sufficient to cause a turbidity increase in drainage facilities that discharge into Class I, II, III, or IV waters, or (d) creation of ruts greater than would be normal following a light rainfall.</p> <p>On logging roads and landing surfaces, this condition may be evidenced by (a) reduced traction by equipment as indicated by spinning or churning of wheels or tracks in excess of normal performance, (b) inadequate traction without blading wet soil, (c) soil displacement in amounts that cause visible increase in turbidity of the downstream waters in receiving Class I, II, III, or IV waters, or in amounts sufficient to cause a turbidity increase in drainage facilities that discharge into Class I, II, III, or IV waters, (d) pumping of road surface materials by traffic, or (e) creation of ruts greater than would be created by traffic following normal road watering, which transports surface material to a drainage facility that discharges directly into a watercourse.</p> <p>Soils or road and landing surfaces that are hard frozen are excluded from this definition. (California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 895.1.).</p>
SITE PREPARATION	<p>means any activity involving mechanical disturbance of soils or burning of vegetation which is performed during or after completion of timber harvesting and is associated with preparation of any portion of a logging area for artificial or natural regeneration. (California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 895.1.)</p>
SKID TRAIL	<p>means constructed trails or established paths used by tractors or other vehicles for skidding logs. Also known as tractor roads. (California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 895.1.)</p>
STABILIZED	<p>means exposed soils and unstable areas have been treated in such a manner that there is low risk of such soils discharging to a waterbody via runoff, slumping, or wind erosion. Appropriate treatment can vary and can include, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cover with mulch (weed free straw, slash, etc.), rocks, tarp, etc. • relocation of excess material to an area that is stable, well drained, isolated from wet areas or watercourses, and where wind exposure is limited • sloping back excess material to a stable angle • hydroseeding, seeding and/or planting • temporary construction erosion control measures (e.g., fiber rolls, silt fences, erosion control blankets, tarps) <p>Note: Minimization of soil disturbance and soil stabilization (as</p>

	described above) are the best and most cost-effective method of preventing sediment delivery. Trying to capture sediment once it is dislodged is much more difficult, costly, and is less likely to succeed.
STREAM ENVIRONMENT ZONE (SEZ) (A term only used within the Lake Tahoe Hydrologic Unit)	<p>means biological communities that owe their characteristics to the presence of surface waters or a seasonal high groundwater table. The criteria used for field identification and delineation of SEZs are unique to the Lake Tahoe Hydrologic Unit and are described below.</p> <p>The following criteria are used by both the Water Board and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA). A Stream Environment Zone is determined to be present if any one of the following key indicators is present, or in the absence of a key indicator, if any three of the following secondary indicators are present. Soil types are discussed in Volume I of the TRPA's Water Quality Management Plan for the Lake Tahoe Region. Plant communities are identified in accordance with the definitions and procedures contained in the report entitled <i>Vegetation of the Lake Tahoe Region, A Guide for Planning</i> (TRPA 1971).</p> <p>1. Key Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Evidence of surface water flow, including perennial, ephemeral, and intermittent streams, but not including rills or man-made channels; or (b) Primary riparian vegetation; or (c) Near surface groundwater; or (d) Lakes or ponds; or (e) Beach (Be) soils; or (f) One of the following alluvial soils: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Elmira loamy coarse sand, wet variant (Ev) (ii) Marsh (Mh). <p>2. Secondary Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Designated floodplain (b) Groundwater between 20-40 inches (c) Secondary riparian vegetation (d) One of the following alluvial soils: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Loamy alluvial land (Lo), or (ii) Celio gravelly loamy coarse sand (Co), or (iii) Gravelly alluvial land (Gr). <p>TRPA's official land capability maps shall be used to identify SEZs initially, but are subject to field verification in every instance.</p>

	<p>The boundary of a SEZ is the outermost limit of the key indicators; the outermost limit where three secondary indicators coincide; or if Lo, Co or Gr soils are present, the outermost limit where two secondary indicators coincide, whichever establishes the widest SEZ at any point. The outermost boundaries of a stream are the bank-full width of such stream which is defined as the level of frequent high flow, i.e., the level of flood with a recurrence interval of approximately 1.5 years. Other definitions of terms used in the criteria above are given in Table 5.7-1 of the Water Board's Basin Plan, and pages 10 – 12 of the TRPA Water Quality Management Plan for the Lake Tahoe Region.</p> <p>Note that SEZs can include bodies of open water as well as wet meadows without defined stream channels. SEZs are generally identical with Bailey land capability Class 1b lands (See TRPA Water Quality Management Plan for the Lake Tahoe Region).</p> <p>This definition is subject to change if the TRPA amends the definition or criteria for SEZs and such changes or amendments are approved by the California State Water Resources Control Board. (Basin Plan Section 5.7)</p>
STRUCTURE	<p>means an approved and legally permitted existing structure (such as residential or commercial building) that complies with the California Building Code (or which pre-dates the building code). Does not include existing roads, power lines, or trails.</p>
TARGET SPECIES	<p>means vegetation and/or tree species that are deliberately selected for removal, reduction, or management to accomplish the project's intended purpose, as specified in the project application, Plan or other submittal.</p>
TIMBER HARVEST AND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES	<p>means all activities related to the management of vegetation for the purposes of fuel reduction; forest thinning; and/or environmental improvement (such as forest enhancement, riparian enhancement, and aspen stand enhancement); prescribed burning; cutting or removal of trees and vegetation, together with all the work incidental thereto, including, but not limited to, construction, reconstruction, maintenance, and decommissioning of roads, fuel breaks, stream crossings, landings, skid trails, or beds for the falling of trees; burned area rehabilitation, hazard tree removal; site preparation that involves disturbance of soil, burning of vegetation, or herbicide/pesticide application. Activities do not include aquatic vegetation management, preparatory tree marking, surveying, or road flagging.</p>

TRIGGER	is a quantifiable target or value that represents a measurement below or before a significant negative impact occurs, so that if the trigger value is reached (e.g. measured soil disturbance), operations causing the discharge are stopped and alternative actions taken.
UNDEVELOPED LOT	means parcels without buildings or structures, up to three acres in size, that are interspersed in areas of <u>existing</u> urban land uses (e.g., residential, commercial or industrial uses). Undeveloped lots include such parcels owned by public agencies within a recognized urban or community boundary.
UNSTABLE AREAS	are characterized by slide areas or unstable soils or by some or all of the following: hummocky topography consisting of rolling bumpy ground, frequent benches, and depressions; short irregular surface drainages begin and end on the slope; tension cracks and head wall scarps indicating slumping are visible; slopes are irregular and may be slightly concave in upper half and convex in lower half as a result of previous slope failure; there may be evidence of impaired ground water movement resulting in local zones of saturation within the soil mass which is indicated at the surface by sag ponds with standing water, springs, or patches of wet ground. Some or all of the following may be present: hydrophytic (wet site) vegetation prevalent; leaning, jackstrawed or split trees are common; pistol-butted trees with excessive sweep may occur in areas of hummocky topography (note: leaning and pistol butted trees should be used as indicators of slope failure only in the presence of other indicators). (California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 895.1.)
WATERBODY	means “waters of the state” as defined in Water Code section 13050 and includes any surface water and ground water, including, but not limited to, any natural or manmade waterbody, including lakes, ponds, springs, and watercourses. Class I, Class II, Class III, Class IV, and Unclassified Waterbodies are defined in Attachment B.
WATERBODY BUFFER ZONE	means a strip of land, along all sides of a waterbody, where additional avoidance measures and management practices are required for protection of the quality and beneficial uses of water, fish and riparian wildlife habitat, other forest resources, and for controlling erosion. Please refer to Attachment B for further explanation.

WATERBREAK	Means a ditch, dike, or dip, or a combination thereof, constructed diagonally across logging roads, skid trails, and fuel breaks so that runoff flow is interrupted and effectively diverted to discharge to non-erodible or vegetated areas that will not result in delivery of sediment to a waterbody. Also known as waterbars.
WATERCOURSE	means any well-defined channel with distinguishable bed and bank showing evidence of having contained flowing water indicated by deposit of rock, sand, gravel, or soil. Watercourse also includes manmade watercourses (California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 895.1.).
WINTER PERIOD	means the period between November 15 and ends April 1. Within the Lake Tahoe, Little Truckee River and Truckee River Hydrologic Units, the winter period is between October 15 and May 1.

All other terms shall have the same definitions as prescribed by the California Forest Practice Rules (California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 895.1 et seq.), Public Resources Code section 4528, subdivision (f), and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Water Code section 13000 et seq.), unless specified otherwise. Definitions contained in Water Code Section 13050(d) controls for the purpose of the Timber Waiver.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

BMPEP.....	Best Management Practices Evaluation Program (U.S. Forest Service)
CAL FIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CWPP	Community Wildfire Protection Plan
ELZ.....	Equipment Limitation Zone
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NTHP	Nonindustrial Timber Management Plan
PRC	Public Resources Code
RPF	Registered Professional Forester
SEZ	Stream Environment Zone (Lake Tahoe Hydrologic Unit Only)
SMZ	Streamside Management Zone
THP.....	Timber Harvest Plan
TRPA	Tahoe Regional Planning Agency